

Education Grants

Alert

The Weekly Report on Funding Opportunities for K-12 Programs

Vol. 18, No. 41
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Districts look to foundations due to economic downturn

School districts are increasingly turning to outside private donations to help make ends meet as public financing for K-12 tightens nationwide. Arnold Fege, director of public engagement and advocacy at the Public Education Network said that search will likely come with a price, as large education-related foundations, such as The Eli & Edythe Broad Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Annenberg Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, will be under increasing pressure to meet more districts' needs. He warned that private giving will probably not make up for the shortage in public education financing during the economic downturn.

But there is hope, according to other education experts, that private funds can help some districts close the gap. "Your key major donors

(See **DISTRICTS** on page 7)

Changes at Grants.gov improve application process

Submitting proposals on Grants.gov gave many grantwriters headaches during the last few years—from registration difficulties to bewildering error messages—but with new changes and an upgraded system in the works, users can expect a smoother ride in 2009.

During the ongoing transition to an all Adobe format and increased server power, users have experienced glitches from missing confirmation pages to slow running times. In fact, "Twenty-five percent of applications being uploaded weren't getting confirmation that their

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Federal Grants Alert

AP Test Fee (ED)

Scope: The Education Department invites applications for grants to increase the number of low-income students who take advanced placement tests and receive scores for college credit.

Deadline: Opens Nov. 12; closes Dec. 15.

Funds: \$12 million for 42 awards ranging from \$2,164 to \$3.6 million each. The project period is one year.

Eligibility: State Education Agencies and their equivalent, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau.

Areas: The program enables states to pay all or part of advanced placement test fees on behalf of eligible low-income students who are enrolled in advanced placement courses, and planning to take the AP exam.

Contact: Francisco Ramirez, (202)260-1541

E-mail: Francisco.Ramirez@ed.gov

Web: www.ed.gov/news/fedregister

(See **FEDERAL** on page 3)

Strategize to keep grantwriting consortium thriving

Writing a grant for one school may seem like a daunting task, but trying to stay on top of grantwriting efforts in an education co-op can be a nightmare if not handled correctly. Take it from Johna Rodgers, grantwriter for the Green River Regional Educational Cooperative, a consortium of 31 Kentucky school districts, who said that the key to success, “is in the way you manage and control your time. It’s not the program design or the people.”

If the grantwriting efforts within your consortium seem to be dwindling or staff members aren’t making them a priority, then it may be time to look at the strategies you utilize to develop your grant proposals.

“If you don’t sweat during the planning, you’ll bleed during the implementation,” said Rodgers.

Below, Rodgers shares some of the best practices she’s gathered during the past 15 years to keep your grant writing consortium surviving and thriving.

• **The meeting.** The first thing you need to do after you determine grant readiness is to call a

meeting of all the people involved in the process — from teachers who will be implementing the program to principals at the schools that are going to be apart of the grant, said Rodgers. “I send an email or letter inviting schools to learn more about a potential grant,” she said.

Schedule an hour and half to describe the program and its requirements, and lay out what you think the program will look like. Together, revise and determine who will be responsible for what. End the meeting by explaining the time line and assigning homework for tasks that need follow up. Within days, summarize activities in a calendar and then send it out to everyone who will participate in the grant process, she said.

• **Communication.** Understand that ongoing communication is a major factor in the process. “[Planning] usually includes 250 to 400 emails and dozens of phone calls,” said Rodgers. Make sure that you have a single contact at each school district and log every phone call and email in case you need them for future reference, she said. Also, know the stakeholders involved in the grant process, i.e., professional developments officers or superintendents.

• **Build ownership.** To keep people invested in the process, provide them with the tools they need to get the job done — but use only those allowing for feedback. Provide a checklist that principals can use to monitor their schools’ commitments, and provide spread sheets with budget categories so they can choose where to spend money and how much they will need, Rodgers said.

• **Deal with the non-responsive.** It happens: you’ve sent out the emails, gotten confirmation that the school wants to participate and doled out the homework, but suddenly you’ve stalled because of non-responsive staff members. To combat this problem, make sure that you can hunt down the individual contact you established in the beginning, said Rodgers. Get work, home and cell numbers, and the number of a second contact at the organization that is able to speak for the original contact. If it is a principal, then get the assistant principal’s numbers as well.

If all else fails and you are still having a problem getting people motivated, it always helps to remind them that they are in a consortium and that the work they do impacts others, said Rodgers.

To contact Johna Rodgers, email johna.rodgers@grrec.ky.gov □

Education Grants Alert

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360 Hiatt Dr., Palm Beach, FL 33418
Customer Service: custserve@lrp.com
New Subscriptions: (800) 341-7874
Editorial: (561) 622-6520, ext. 8707
ksullivan@lrp.com

Publisher: Kenneth F. Kahn
V.P., Editorial: Claude J. Werder
Executive Editor: Candace Golanski Gallo
Managing Editor: Kelly J. Sullivan
Editor: Krista Birkeland

Editorial Contributors: James Michael Brodie, Pamela Moore, Wangui Njuguna, Kim Riley, Mark Sherman, Sarah D. Sparks, Jeanne Sweeney, Erin Uy, Frank Wolfe

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Federal Grants Alert (Cont. from p. 1)

Integrity in Collaborative Research (NIH)

Scope: The National Institutes of Health seek proposals from organizations to study research integrity as it relates to collaborative interactions and/or activities.

Deadline: March 17, 2009.

Funds: Estimated funding to be \$850,000 for two to three awards.

Eligibility: State, county, city or township, and special district governments; independent school districts; public and state controlled institutions of higher education; and nonprofit organizations.

Areas: Proposals must address at least one of the following:

- the clarification of community norms and standards;
- the effectiveness of self-regulation;
- the societal, organizational, group, or individual factors that underlie deviation from integrity in research, both positively and negatively;
- or the impacts of non-adherence to accepted codes of conduct.

Contact: Andrea Sawczuk, program official, Division of Clinical Research Resources, National Center for Research Resources, 6701 Democracy Blvd., Room 915, Bethesda, MD 20891-4874; (301) 435-0792

E-mail: sawczuka@mail.nih.gov

Web: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RR-09-004.html#SectionVII>

Prevention of unintended pregnancy (NIH)

Scope: The National Institutes of Health seek submissions that will inform interventions addressing the cultural and structural factors that produce high rates of unintended pregnancy across the reproductive age span, especially in low-income populations in the United States.

Deadline: Jan. 7, 2012.

Funds: Because the nature and scope of the proposed research will vary from application to application, it is anticipated that the size and duration of each award will also vary.

Eligibility: State, county, city or township, and special district governments; independent school districts; public and state controlled institutions of higher education; and nonprofit organizations.

Areas: Interventions can operate at a window range of levels, from clinical interventions to interventions that influence cultural, economic, social, structural, and/or policy factors contributing to unintended pregnancies.

Tip: *Electronic application submission is required for this FOA. The new Adobe versions of the application forms are not yet available. Check Web site in December to download the application package.*

Contact: Cecilia Bruce, Grants Management Branch, The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), 6100 Executive Blvd., 8A17L, MSC 7510, Bethesda, MD 20892-7510; (301) 496-1304

E-mail: brucec@mail.nih.gov

Web: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-015.html#SectionVII>

Universal Design Leadership Project (NEA)

Scope: The National Endowment for the Arts solicits proposals to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with an organization that will carry out a project to increase understanding, acceptance and practice of universal design within the design profession, by design educators, and by the American public.

The project should educate designers and others including developers, city planners and consumers on this important issue.

Deadline: Feb. 19, 2009.

Funds: One cooperative agreement of up to \$65,000.

Eligibility: State, county, city or township, or special district governments; independent school districts; public and state controlled institutions of higher education; or nonprofit organizations. Applicants must have three years experience in universal design.

Areas: Proposed projects should focus on extending the appeal of universal design from the disability community into the mainstream of American design and society.

Contact: NEA Grants & Contracts Officer, Room 618, National Endowment for the Arts, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506; (202) 682-5403

E-mail: jacobsn@arts.gov

Web:

www.nea.gov/grants/apply/RFP/UnivDesign.html □

Private Grants Alert

Optical Society of America Foundation

Scope: The Optical Society of America Foundation solicits proposals to: support the advancement of youth science; provide optics education and resources to underserved populations; and career and professional development resources.

Deadline: March 1 and June 1, 2009 for online applications.

Funds: In 2006, the foundation provided over \$300,000 in grants.

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations.

Areas: Programs should: provide children with access to science educators and learning materials through interactive classroom and extracurricular activities, and should use optics and photonics as a key enabling technology; provide students and educators with learning and financial resources; and/or help students from around the world build successful and rewarding careers in optics and photonics.

Tip: *OSA Foundation is only accepting proposals for programs taking place in 2010 or later.*

Contact: Meredith Smith, OSA Foundation, 2010 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; (202) 416-1421

E-mail: foundationgrants@osa.org

Web:

www.osa.org/aboutosa/foundation/grantapplication/default.aspx

The Astronauts Memorial Foundation

Scope: The Astronauts Memorial Foundation solicits applications for the Alan Shepard Technology Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions made by personnel or classroom teachers to technology education.

Deadline: Jan. 16, 2009.

Funds: Winner receives travel and hotel accommodations to the 25th National Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, Colo.; a commemorative trophy; and a \$5,000 cash award. In addition, the winner's name will be placed on a plaque honoring past recipients that is housed in the Center for Space Education at the Kennedy Space Center.

Eligibility: K-12 school or district level educators.

Contact: The Astronauts Memorial Foundation, The Alan Shepard Award, Mail Code AMF, Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899; (321) 452-2887

E-mail: amfreg@amfcse.org

Web:

www.amfcse.org/Alan%20shepard%20Award/alan_shepard_award.htm

Allen Foundation

Scope: The Allen Foundation supports nutritional programs in the areas of education, training and research.

Deadline: Dec. 31 for online submissions.

Funds: In 2007, the foundation provided almost \$600,000 in charitable grants.

Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations; hospitals or medical clinics; private foundations; and public, parochial or private schools.

Areas: Programs areas include: nutrition research and the promotion of healthful nutritional practices and habits; and the education and training of mothers during pregnancy and after the birth of their children, so that good nutritional habits can be formed at an early age.

Tip: *Preference will be given to programs with matching contributions.*

Contact: Allen Foundation, P.O. Box 1606, Midland, MI 48641-1606

E-mail: d-baum@tamu.edu

Web:

www.allenfoundation.org/commoninfo/aboutus.asp

The Goldman Sachs Foundation

Scope: The Goldman Sachs Foundation, administered through the Asia Society, seeks entrants for the District/State Prize, which recognizes a state or one of the 100 largest school districts that is actively promoting the development of international knowledge and skills on a wide scale through the creation of robust policies and specific programming initiatives.

Deadline: Dec. 1.

Funds: \$25,000 award.

Eligibility: States and districts serving at least 46,500 students.

Areas: Proposals should reflect: district's commitment through leadership; the promotion of international education as a priority in district's K-12 policies; commitment and specific actions to increase teacher knowledge; specific district-wide programmatic initiatives and their sustainability.

(more)

Private Grants Alert (Cont.)

Contact: Asia Society, 725 Park Ave., New York, NY 10021

E-mail: gsfprizes@asiasoc.org

Web: <http://international.org/prozes/state-application.htm>

Discovery Education

Scope: Discovery Education and mimio—a pioneer in digitally enabling the interactive potential of any ordinary whiteboard—seek to support and reward first year teachers with the New Teacher Survival Central Sweepstakes, which provides weekly awards of technology and software to deserving teachers.

Deadline: Weekly until Jan. 29.

Funds: Weekly awards consist of technology, software, creativity kits and DVDs. A grand prize winner will receive five mimio interactive systems, a color laser printer from CDW-G, a \$2,000 Elmer's Creativity Collection and \$5,000 in multimedia from Discovery Education.

Eligibility: First year K-12 educators.

Tip: *The veteran teacher who refers the grand prize winner will receive a \$1,500 Elmer's Creativity Collection and a \$5,000 technology grant from Discovery Education.*

Contact: Discovery Communications, LLC, One Discovery Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Web: www.discoveryeducation.com/survival/

Muzak Heart & Soul Foundation

Scope: The Muzak Heart & Soul Foundation accepts applications for the Music Matters™ Music Education Grants to help a child better achieve his/her full potential and stimulate personal and educational growth.

Deadline: Feb. 4, 2009.

Funds: Grants range from \$1,000 to \$12,000.

Eligibility: Public school programs qualifying for Title I and serving a minimum of 70 percent low-income students; or nonprofit programs directly funding music education. Schools and programs must already employ a music educator(s) and have an existing music program in place; and vocal or instrumental education must be the key component.

Areas: Priority is given to programs serving students in K-12 grade levels; programs with innovative educational reform; and programs that have established collaborative partnerships with a PTSA or other community group.

Contact: Muzak Heart & Soul Foundation, 3318 Lakemont Blvd., Fort Mill, SC 29708

E-mail: heart@muzak.com

Web: <http://heart.muzak.com/what/grants.aspx>

Space Frontier Foundation

Scope: The Space Frontier Foundation and the United States Rocket Academy seek entrants for the Teachers in Space Program, Pathfinder, to send two teachers into space. The teachers also will help design a three-week training course for the large number of teachers to follow.

Deadline: Dec. 4.

Funds: Training for space flight to take place in 2009, and the first flight is slated for 2010-2011.

Eligibility: K-12 teachers.

Areas: Applicants may apply under two areas: one who is knowledgeable in STEM subjects—applicants for this slot are asked to submit a proposal for an experiment that could be performed on a suborbital flight; and one who has strong skills in lesson plan development—applicants are asked to submit a lesson plan or curriculum module based on any aspect of human space-flight.

Contact: All questions should be directed to the email below.

E-mail: apply@teachers-in-space.org

Web: www.teachersinspace.org/apply/apply.htm

Foundation for Technology Education

Scope: The Foundation for Technology Education solicits applications for the Maley/FTE Technology Teacher Scholarship to support teachers in their preparation to increase positive outcomes of technology education.

Deadline: Dec. 1.

Funds: \$1,000 awards.

Eligibility: Technology teachers at any grade level who are beginning or continuing graduate study; and are members of the International Technology Education Association.

Areas: Criteria for scholarship include: evidence of teaching success; plans for action research; recommendations; plans for professional development; and need.

Contact: Maley/FTE Scholarship, Foundation for Technology Education, 1914 Association Drive, Suite 201, Reston, VA 20191-1539; (703) 860-2100

E-mail: itea@iteaconnect.org

Web:

www.iteaconnect.org/Awards/scholarshipmaley.htm □

Local Funding Briefs

In this section, Education Grants Alert focuses on private-sector funders that limit their giving to geographic regions in which they have a particular interest.

New Mexico Potters and Clay Artists

Geographic Area: New Mexico.

Scope: The New Mexico Potters and Clay Artists seek proposals for the Bill Armstrong Grant, which provides funding to encourage ceramic art education or programs in ceramic arts for individuals, nonprofit organizations or educational institutions.

Funds may be used for: the purchase of supplies and/or equipment; contracting with a visiting artist; marketing/publicizing a special program or project or other activities directly related to ceramic art education.

Deadline: Feb. 1.

Funds: Grants range from \$500 to \$1,000.

Contact: Daisy Kates, New Mexico Potters & Clay Artists, P.O. Box 26811, Albuquerque, NM 87125; (505) 867-3790

Email: Grant12@nmpotters.org

Web: www.nmpotters.org/Grant.htm

North Carolina Arts Council

Geographic Area: North Carolina.

Scope: The North Carolina Arts Council supports art in preK-12 schools, school systems, nonprofit arts or community organizations, or partnership teams consisting of at least one school and one nonprofit arts organization.

Eligible programs and projects include: after-school and summer arts in education programs designed specifically for underserved students; school public art residency collaboration; and professional development workshops and institutes for preK-12 educators and teaching artists that focus on increasing skills in arts and education, or integrating the arts into the curriculum.

Deadline: March 2, 2009.

Funds: Matching grants range from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

Contact: Linda Bamford, director, Arts in Education, North Carolina Arts Council; (919) 807-6502

Email: linda.bamford@ncdcr.gov

Web: www.ncarts.org/grants_category.cfm?ID=1

Walter S. Johnson Foundation

Geographic Area: Northern California Counties; and Washoe County, Nev.

Scope: The Walter S. Johnson Foundation funds education programs that encourage youth, ages 14 to 24, to complete high school and obtain post-secondary credentials through cross-sector collaborations between school districts, local government, alternative education providers, community based organizations and community colleges.

Support is provided under:

Pathways to success- programs that work to increase the graduation rates of high school drop-outs and students who are off-track to graduating high school; and

Teaching and student support- programs that work to develop and disseminate instructional practices and student support services that help out-of-school youth complete high school and/or post-secondary education or training.

Deadline: Rolling for letters.

Funds: In 2006, 93 grants were awarded averaging \$41,000.

Contact: Walter S. Johnson Foundation, 525 Middlefield Road, Suite 160, Menlo Park, CA 94025; (650) 326-0485

Web:

www.wsjf.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=17&Itemid=31

M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

Geographic Area: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

Scope: The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust provides high school teachers opportunities to work at the cutting edge of science to revitalize their teaching, and increase their appreciation of the use of inquiry-based methods in teaching science through the Partners in Science Program.

Deadline: Dec. 1.

Funds: \$15,000 for two years.

Web: www.murdock-trust.org □

Districts look to foundations due to economic downturn (Cont.)

often step up” during periods of significant instability, said Jim Collogan, interim executive director of the National School Foundation Association. NSFA estimates about 40 percent of the 13,500 U.S. public school districts have set up their own nonprofit foundations.

“Hopefully, these foundations have built enough capacity that major donors will step up,” Collogan said.

Public K-12 schools take in about \$60 million per year in giving and are the fastest growing area of such philanthropy, Collogan said, even though higher education and private schools represent the bulk of the \$41 billion in educational philanthropy, annually. Collogan said it is best for districts to keep foundation money as a rainy day fund, because districts typically have just 2 percent to 3 percent of their budgets as discretionary funding after subtracting 85 percent for personnel and another 12 percent for costs like buses, buildings and curricula. Districts are using some of this discretionary funding, however, to pay for higher utility and gas costs.

Fege said foundations should have at least one year’s worth of reserves to tide them over during economic slides. “Those foundations that had endowments or money that they were setting aside for a rainy day and that invested primarily in the stock market are down significantly,” he said.

The Gates Foundation “is not deviating from its strategy or its approach to our grantmak-

ing,” a spokesperson said, so it appears some large foundations have already expressed a willingness to stay the course.

Some education groups have experienced continued fundraising success despite the economic downturn. When Wall Street hit the skids Sept. 17, foundations and nonprofits felt the tremors. Not even a week later, however, the Chicago Public Education Fund announced it had secured more than \$22 million for an initiative to support disadvantaged schools.

The new tranche of money is to fund innovative school management efforts in Chicago Public Schools, differentiated compensation for teachers and principals based on student achievement, recruitment of high-quality teachers and principals, and the use of data to inform better decision-making.

The CPEF effort was the result of a yearlong engagement of 100 key stakeholders in CPS. None of the major donors have backed out of their commitments because of the Wall Street financial turmoil, said Janet Knupp, CPEF founding president, adding that the fund raised \$600,000 during the last month.

Knupp remained optimistic about her fundraising prospects. “I do believe the American people will always choose social causes, especially when they feel they can have the greatest impact,” she said.

Contributed by Frank Wolfe of sister publication EdDaily® □

Changes at Grants.gov improve application process (Cont.)

applications were successfully submitted,” said Michael Pellegrino, communications leader, Program Management Office, Grants.gov. “This glitch ..will be eliminated using Adobe.”

Twenty-two of the federal 26 agencies have already made the transition to Adobe forms and Nov. 30, 2008 is the last day for agencies to make the switch. February 20, 2009 is the last day for users to submit proposals using PureEdge Viewer, he said.

While this transition won’t affect the submission process itself, applicants need to have both Adobe Reader and PureEdge Viewer available to them until the complete transition takes place.

Users have also been experiencing slow run time when uploading documents, due to the fact that only 360 concurrent users are able to be active on Grants.gov at one time, but by

Dec. 14, 2008, that number will bump up to 2,000 concurrent users, Pellegrino said. He suggests that for now you open up a new browser and start the submission process again if you are experiencing trouble during the upload process.

In addition, throughout the past year only 2,000 applications were being accepted daily through Grants.gov, but on Oct. 31, Grants.gov successfully completed the “Speed & Reliability” system upgrade, which included three new T-1000 servers and the upgrade of two existing servers. Grants.gov can now process up to 10,000 applications per day.

For more information or to subscribe for update alerts, visit
www.grants.gov/applicants/email_subscription.jsp □

Funding Notebook

Picturing America deadline extended

The National Endowment for the Humanities has extended the deadline for the second round of the Picturing America initiative, which promotes the study, teaching and understanding of U.S. history and culture by introducing students and the general public to America's art treasures. The new deadline is Nov. 14. (*EGA vol. 18, iss. 21*)

For more information, visit <http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/>

Big Mac contest celebrates academics

McDonald's seeks student essay submissions for the new All American Achievers program, which encourages 7th and 8th grade students of Greater Philadelphia to stay in school and be active in their communities. Interested teachers are invited to submit their student's essay celebrating academic achievement and community leadership by Dec. 8.

Grand prize winners will each receive a \$500 gift card and a new laptop computer, and teachers who submit the winning essays will each receive a \$500 gift card to purchase supplies for their classroom.

For further information, visit www.365Black.com

State funding for literacy available

The Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library solicits Granite State Reads grants for projects that improve the literacy skills of New Hampshire children or adults. Agencies or individuals in New Hampshire that can comply with the requirements are eligible to apply for grants of \$500 or more. The deadline for entry is Dec. 1.

For more information, visit www.nh.gov/nhsl/bookcenter/programs/GSR_faq.htm

Librarians, students eligible for grants

The Young Adult Library Services Association provides two \$1,000 grants yearly to librarians who work directly with young adults to enable them to attend the annual ALA conference for the first time. One grant is given to a school librarian and one is given to a public librarian.

Applicants must have a valid YALSA personal membership, one to ten years experience working with teenagers and no previous attendance at an Annual ALA Conference. Deadline for entry is Dec. 1.

For further information, visit www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/awardsandgrants/bakertaylorala.org

NASA seeks student input on research

NASA and the Challenger Center for Space Science Education are asking students to provide a name for an innovative inflatable habitat that is being used in Antarctica as a testing station for potential use in

space. In addition, students need to explain why the name should be used and should reflect the potential uses of inflatable habitats on Earth and other worlds.

The winning name and school will be announced from Antarctica in January 2009. Deadline for submissions is Nov. 25 and the contest is open to all 6th-10th grade classrooms.

For more information, visit www.challenger.org/hab/

California student takes home the prize

The Society for Science & the Public announced the winner of the SSP Middle School Program, the nation's premier science competition for middle school students. Christopher Sauer, 13, Portola Valley, Calif., took home the top award—a \$20,000 scholarship—for his original science fair project and participation in team-based interactive science experiments held at the Koshland Science Museum.

For further information, visit www.societyforscience.org

California schools go solar thanks to PG&E

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company, in an effort to bring solar power to the classroom, awarded 25 California schools with 1.3 kilowatt solar generation systems (valued at \$25,000) and nine schools with \$5,000 in 'Bright Ideas' grants for their innovative solar science projects.

The winners will be honored at a special teacher training and awards banquet hosted by PG&E at the newly renovated California Academy of Sciences building in San Francisco, yet to be announced.

For more information, visit www.pge.com/solarschools

Culinary intern for a day, chef for life

The International Culinary Schools at The Art Institutes solicit entrants for the Best Teen Chef Competition 2009. Applicants must be high school seniors with aspirations of a culinary education.

The competition begins with local cook-offs at participating International Culinary Schools on March 14, 2009. Winners of these competitions will advance to a final round to be held May 9, 2009, at The Art Institute of Charlotte.

The first place winner will take home a full-tuition scholarship, title of Best Teen Chef 2009 and will serve as 'Intern for a Day' at the Food Network Kitchens in New York City. In addition, the winner will receive a tour of the Food Network's studios, dinner for two at a Food Network chef's restaurant and a library of Food Network Kitchen cookbooks. Deadline for entry is Feb. 6, 2009.

For further information, visit www.artinstitutes.edu/pr.aspx?ID=btCW ■